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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Thailand

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SUBJECT Pro-Communist Newspapers in Bangkok:
Lok Mai and Politics Weekly (Karnmuang Weekly)

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Lok Mai

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1. Yuang Iansila and Thanong Iansila, publishers of the pro-Communist Thai-language weekly newspaper Lok Mai, claim that they are not Communists. Thanong Iansila is the editor of Lok Mai; his brother serves as an advisor. They are from northeastern Thailand.
2. Yuang Iansila was formerly a staff member of Mahachon, but resigned as a protest against the Communist Party methods used in publishing the paper. Although the entire staff, including janitors and clerks were permitted to vote on policy decisions at meetings called by Udon Krisuwan and Wirote Amphai, owner of Mahachon, staff members voted as they were told.
3. Yuang, a former schoolteacher in Udon, was a friend of Tieng Sirikhan and Phan Koomat, when all three were living there. Phan now takes every opportunity to criticize Yuang.
4. Ari Livira and the late Thongplaew Cholaphum were among the original backers of Lok Mai.
5. In approximately December 1950, a member of the Soviet Legation in Bangkok approached Yuang to enlist his support for the Stockholm Peace Appeal campaign.*

Karnmuang Weekly

6. In what appears to be a policy reorganization of the strongly pro-Communist Politics Weekly, the title of the paper has been changed to Karnmuang Weekly. The following changes in the staff have been made:

Owner: Charun Supsaeng

Former Owner:

Prasit Kanchanawat, a graduate of the University of Moral and Political Science, who translated the Soviet constitution into Thai one year ago.

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Editor:	Chamrat Saphthanawim	Former Editor:	Pethai Chotinuckit, anti-Government IP from Thonburi.
General Manager:	Surit Pornbot	Former General Manager:	Chari Amatykum, a lawyer and graduate of the University of Moral and Political Science.

It is possible that the overt organization of the publication is being changed in order to disguise its Communist organization. [REDACTED]

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7. The masthead of recent issues of Karmuang Weekly lists the following new contributors to the paper:
 - a) Supha Sirimanon, editor of Aksorasan.
 - b) Kulap Saipradit, Australian-trained leftist journalist.
 - c) Samak Burawat, lecturer at the Buddhist University.
 - c) Tiang Sirikhan.
 - c) Isara Ananthakun, leftist writer on the staff of Siam Nikorn.
 - f) Chaw Sampheng, a friend of Isara Ananthakun and also with Siam Nikorn.
 - g) Buddhat Bikkhu, leftist Buddhist priest.
8. No articles contributed by Admiral Tahan Khamiran have appeared in the last two issues of Karmuang Weekly. Prior to the reorganization of the paper, at least one editorial in each issue was contributed by Tahan.
9. The lead editorial appearing in the issue of Karmuang Weekly for the week of 21 January warns that Thailand must not become involved with the imperialist war in Indochina. Apparently the Communists are going to take a strong stand on the Indochina question, fearing that Phibun will commit Thailand to active participation against the Viet Minh.
10. In the 28 January issue, Karmuang Weekly announced that it had obtained 187,000 signatures for the Stockholm Peace Appeal, the majority from the northeastern provinces. The principal article in this issue, "The People Versus Phibun and the United States," claimed that the ceremony at which American arms were turned over to Thailand was deliberately staged by Phibun and the United States to intimidate the people.
11. An advertisement appearing in a recent issue of Karmuang Weekly states that current Soviet literature is obtainable at the Fah Chong Oun Fah Bookstore.
12. The most recent issue of the paper carried an article reporting on the progress of the Stockholm Peace Appeal Campaign in its eleventh week. New signatures of the appeal listed in the paper included the following:
 - a) Nimuan Thongplaew, widow of Thongplaew Cholaphum.
 - b) The wife of Bunlom Pungsunthorn, aka Pramote Pungsunthorn, a former Pridi aide, now on trial in connection with the 26 February 1959 coup d'etat.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- c) Anan, brother of Pridi's wife, Punsuk.
- d) The wife of Chaliew Raturukot, a former Pridi aide and a defendant in the King's Death Case.
- e) The wife of Thongin Phuripat.
- f) Several members of the family of Sanguan Tularak.
- g) Liab Lilarat, former MP from Trang who was involved in the Food Distribution Organization scandal. A former Sahachep Party member, Liab is still very popular and will probably win the next Trang election.

13. The article claimed that signers of the Stockholm Peace Appeal support the following resolutions:

- a) The recall of Thai troops from Korea.
- b) The cessation of war preparations.
- c) The eviction from Thailand of imperialist war mongers.
- d) The adoption of a more friendly attitude toward the Viet Minh.
- e) The enactment of laws against war propaganda.

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* [REDACTED] Comment. This is the first indication of members of the Soviet Legation dealing directly with the press.

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